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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/650,486

08/28/2003

Neil J. Goldfine

1884.2006-006

6143

21005

7590

06/13/2006

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EXAMINER

PATIDAR, JAY M.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2862

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/650,486

Applicant(s)

GOLDFINE ET AL.

Examiner

Jay M. Patidar

Art Unit

2862

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment received on March 27, 2006.

2. Claims 1,8 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, last line, it is unclear as to "an end opening of the channel" is a first end or a second end;

In claim 8,19, the first and second scans are not clearly defined.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-7,10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender.

As to claims 1,4, Bender discloses a method for inspecting a channel or pipe 10 using flexible surface sensor 12 with a pressurizable chamber 13 for maintaining the sensor position proximate to a component surface (figs. 1-2) wherein a deflated chamber is inserted into an opening; chamber is inflated and the sensor response is measured as the sensor is moved along the channel (e.g. col. 3, lines 4-18). Bender does not explicitly disclose the sensor being moved through a second end opening of the channel. It would have been obvious to one

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to move the sensor through the second opening of the channel to complete the scan of the whole channel including the end opening. If ordinary skill in the art would inspect the channel, he/she would scan the whole channel in order to complete the channel scanning and would not stop in half way and then move in opposite direction. Furthermore, the use of such flexible sensor for a small channel, bolt hole or engine disk slot is considered an intended use. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

As to claims 2-3, the sensors in Bender are eddy current sensors.

As to claims 5,11-13,15-16, Bender discloses a method for inspecting a channel as explained above. Bender does not explicitly disclose the steps of inflating, deflating and moving of the sensor to desired positions. One ordinary skill in the art would move the sensor of Bender with an inflated pressurizable chamber along the inside of the channel and would deflate the chamber when withdrawing from the chamber or any way as desired. Bender fails to show two steps scans. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to scan the pipe in the first direction and then in

opposite direction instead of just one step scanning as disclosed in Bender since it would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art to follow two ways scanning since this would ensure proper inspection of the pipe by overlapping or repeating the scans.

As to claims 6-7,10,14, one ordinary skill in the art would scan the object by moving the sensing device to any desired position (col. 3, line 58) e.g. full or half or one third of the total distance as desired and collect/process data from the eddy current sensor for inspecting that much length of an inner surface of the object.

4. Claims 8-9 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to rejected claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

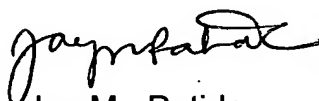
6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay M. Patidar whose telephone number is 571-272-2265. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 7:00-5:30.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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June 8, 2006